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## The Daily News.

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### Miscellaneous.

#### SCENE IN THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

##### SPEECH OF A BRAVE OLD PATRIOT.

The Springfield correspondence of the Missouri Democrat contains the following account of an exciting scene in the late Illinois Legislature:

A great sensation was created by a speech by Mr. Fink, one of the richest farmers in the State, a man who pays over three thousand dollars per annum taxes toward the support of the Government. The lobby and gallery were crowded with spectators. Mr. Fink rose to object to trifling resolutions which were being introduced by the Democrats to kill time and stave off a vote upon the appropriations for the support of the State Government. He said:

Mr. Speaker—I can sit in my seat no longer and see such by-play going on. These men are trifling with the best interests of the country. They should have sense enough to get off their heads, as they are traitors and secessionists at heart.

I say that there are traitors and secessionists at heart in this Senate. Their actions prove it. Their speeches prove it. Their glibness in laughter and cheers here nightly, when their speakers get up to denounce the war and the Administration, prove it.

I can sit here no longer and not tell these traitors what I think of them. And while so telling them, I am responsible, myself, for what I say. I stand upon my own bottom. I am ready to meet any man on this floor, in any manner, from a pin's point to the mouth of a cannon, upon this charge against these traitors. (Tremendous applause in the galleries.) I am an old man of sixty-five; I came to Illinois a poor boy; I have made a little something for myself and family. I pay three thousand dollars a year in taxes. I am willing to pay six thousand, any twelve thousand, great cheering, the old gentleman striking the desk with a blow that would knock down a bullock, and causing the inkstand to fly in the air) I am willing to pay my whole fortune, and then give my life to save my country from these traitors that are seeking to destroy it. (Tremendous applause, which the Speaker could not control.)

Mr. Speaker, you must please excuse me, I could not sit longer in my seat and calmly listen to these traitors. My heart, that beats for my poor country, would not let me. My heart, that cries out for the lives of our brave volunteers in the field, that these traitors at home are destroying by thousands, would not let me. My heart, that bleeds for the widows and orphans at home, would not let me. Yes, these traitors and villains in this Senate (striking his clenched fist on the desk with a blow that made the Senate ring again) are killing my neighbors' boys, my fighting in the field. I dare to say this to these traitors right here, and I am responsible for what I say to any one or all of them. (Cheers.) Let them come now, right here. I am sixty-five years old, and I have made up my mind to risk my life right here on this floor, for my country. (Mr. Fink's seat is near the lobby railing, and a crowd collected around him evidently with the intention of protecting him from violence, if necessary. The last announcement was received with great cheering, and I saw many an eye flash, and many a countenance grow radiant with the light of defiance.)

These men sneered at Col. Mack a few days since. He is a small man. But I am a large man. I am ready to meet them in place of Col. Mack. I am large enough for them, and I hold myself ready for them now and at any time. (Cheers from the galleries.)

Mr. Speaker, these traitors on this floor should be provided with hangmen collars. They deserve them. They deserve hanging, I say, (raising his voice and violently striking the desk) the country would be better off swinging them up. I go for hanging them, and I dare to tell them so, right to their traitorous faces. Traitors should be hung. It would be the salvation of the country to hang them. For that reason I must reject all. (Tremendous cheering.) Mr. Speaker, I beg pardon of the gentlemen in this Senate who are not traitors, but true loyal men, for what I have said. I only intend it and mean it for secessionists at heart. They are here in this Senate. I see them glib, and snicker, and grin at a true Union man. Must I defy them? I stand here ready for them and dare them to come on. (Great cheering.) What man with the heart of a patriot could stand this treason any longer? I have stood it long enough. I will stand it no more. (Cheers.) I denounce these men and their aiders and abettors as rank traitors and secessionists. Hell itself could not spew out a more traitorous crew than some of the men that disgrace this Legislature, this State, and this country. For myself I protest against little bills and claims through the Legislature, to take money out of the pockets of the people, are talking about high taxes. They are hypocrites

as well as traitors. I heard some of them talking about high taxes in this way who do not pay five dollars to the support of the Government. I denounce them as hypocrites as well as traitors. (Cheers.)

The reason they pretend to be afraid of high taxes is that they do not want to vote money for the relief of the soldiers. They want to embarrass the Government and stop the war. They want to add the secessionists to conquer our boys in the field. They want about high taxes! They are pigheaded men anyhow, and pay no taxes at all and never did, and never hope or expect to. This is an excuse of traitors. (Cheers.)

Mr. Speaker: Excuse me, I feel for my country, in this hour of danger, from the tips of my toes to the ends of my hair. That is the reason I speak as I do. I cannot help it. I am bound to tell these men to their teeth what they are, and what the people, the true loyal people, think of them. (Tremendous cheering.) The Speaker rapped upon his desk, apparently to stop it, but ready to add to its volume, for I could see by his flushed cheeks and flashing eye that his heart was with the brave and loyal old gentleman.)

Mr. Speaker: I have said my say. I am no speaker. That is the only speech I have made, and I do not know that it deserves to be called a speech. I could not sit still any longer and see these secessionists and traitors work out their hellish schemes to destroy the Union. They have my sentiments: let them one one all make the most of them. I am ready to back up all I say, and I repeat it, to meet these traitors in any manner they may choose from a pin's point to the mouth of a cannon. (Tremendous applause, during which the old gentleman sat down, after he had given the desk a parting whack, which sounded loud above the din of cheers and clapping of hands.)

I never before witnessed so much excitement in an assembly. Mr. Fink spoke with a force of natural eloquence, with a conviction and truthfulness, with a fervor and pathos which wrought up galleries and even members on the floor to the highest pitch of excitement.

His voice was heard in the stores that surround the square, and the people came flocking in from all quarters. In five minutes he had an audience that packed the hall to its utmost capacity. After he had concluded the Republican members and spectators rushed up and took him by the hand to congratulate him. The Democrats said nothing, but evidently felt the indignation of their men receiving much heat, as might be seen from their blanched cheeks and restless and uneasy glances.

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